

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING MEETING**  
**Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Aging and Adult Services Agency**  
**300 E. Michigan Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl.; Lansing, MI 48933**  
**March 18, 2016 @9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Wishart called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Commissioner Mast.

**COMMISSION ROLL CALL**

The Commission roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dona Wishart, Matthew Adeyanju, Douglas Chalgian, Joan Ilardo, Gerald Irby, Kathleen LaTosch, Harold Mast, Richard Ortega, Michael Sheehan, Kristie Zamora and Jeffery Schade.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT** (excused)

Michael Burri, Sibyl Ellis, Renee' Reid-Smith and Donna Murray-Brown.

**AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY (AASA) STAFF PRESENT**

Kari Sederburg, Richard Kline, Sarah Slocum, Scott Wamsley, Gloria Lanum, Tari Muñiz, Becky Payne and Lauren Swanson-Aprill.

**VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT**

Bob Clingenpeel, Gary Welch and Elena Camp.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Irby to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wishart asked for a motion to approve the January 15, 2016, minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sheehan to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ilardo seconded the motion. This motion was approved unanimously with a voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Gary Welch spoke about his difficulties in caring for his parents during their final years and asked for more information to be made available for family caregivers like himself. He suggested that having a phone number where people could ask questions would be helpful and showed a catalog listing devices and accommodations useful for people in his situation.

Commissioner Wishart thanked Mr. Welch for addressing the commission with his concerns and would take his concerns into consideration.

### **COMMISSION CHAIR REPORT**

Commissioner Wishart welcomed Richard Kline, AASA's newly-hired Deputy Director.

Commissioner Wishart expressed thanks to Commissioner Sheehan for his leadership as Chair of the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC), noting there will be a full SAC report in April. She asked the Commission to consider ways to follow up on their findings.

Commissioner Ortega volunteered to represent the CSA in June. Between now and then, the Commission will pull together a committee to appoint new SAC members.

AASA's communications liaison, Phil Lewis, has gathered stakeholders to look at the *Living Well, Aging Well* website at <http://www.michigan.gov/aging>. The Commission was asked to look at the website and to send comments to Commissioner Wishart.

The national Aging in America conference will take place next week and Commissioners Wishart and Ilardo will attend and present information.

### **AGING AND ADULT SERVICES AGENCY (AASA) DIRECTOR REPORT**

Director Sederburg welcomed Richard Kline as AASA's new deputy director.

Deputy Director Kline thanked everyone for their warm welcome and provided a brief summary of his background and experience.

Director Sederburg stated Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA) has been fantastic in their ongoing efforts to assist Flint's seniors through the water crisis. The Commission sent a letter of appreciation to VAAA.

Commissioner Ilardo stated she is hearing concerns about what's being done to assist elders in Flint.

Director Sederburg stated she will be speaking at a town hall soon and will send an update. AASA is also working with VAAA on a proposal to the Governor's office, and AARP is interested in helping to fund initiatives in Flint.

Commissioner LaTosch stated there isn't much data on the effects of lead on elders.

Commissioner Ilardo stated this concern has been expressed previously, and she's been in discussions with the Hurley Clinic on how to test and examine this issue.

Director Sederburg addressed the legislature on the fiscal year 2017 budget process, noting no funding changes are expected for our network. Director Sederburg spoke of the need for additional funding to address dementia and waiting lists, noting the Silver Key Coalition is advocating for \$5 million for home-delivered meals.

The deadline has been extended to nominate persons for the Senior Citizen of the Year. Commissioners Mast and Zamora volunteered to be on the selection committee.

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services has been looking at a more comprehensive model of health care, improved coordination and attention to full-spectrum care. There five pilot regions that will study various aspects of health care, including mental health and care for all ages. Director Sederburg will send out additional information as it becomes available.

Commissioner Adeyanju stated there will be a conference at Ferris State University, titled *Meeting the Challenges of an Aging Population* on April 7 and 8, as part of Public Health Week. Director Sederburg will speak the morning of April 7.

Commissioner Sheehan stated the SAC held meetings to address the issues of direct care workers, the topic they were assigned to study by the Commission. Four teams looked at different aspects of the issues and the primary concerns addressed were the need for more recognition, training and direct care worker's pay, and a more comprehensive transportation network in the state. The full report will be presented at the next Commission meeting. If Commissioners have ideas for the next SAC research assignment, please send them to Commissioner Wishart for consideration in upcoming meetings.

Director Sederburg summarized and provided the legislative report prepared by Phil Lewis, AASA's legislative liaison. The CARE Act made it out of committee, which allows a person preparing to be discharged from a hospital the ability to designate someone as their caregiver who would be provided with training on how to care for them.

House Bill 5171 would require persons 75 or older to renew their driver license in person. This is of concern and is being watched.

State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Sarah Slocum reported a package of bills has moved out of the House that would allow parolees to be released into nursing facilities. There are some very critical issues that need to be worked out before this change should take place. Ms. Slocum is opposed to passage of these bills at this time.

The release of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans' audit has brought to light some troubling issues. It was noted that recent changes have reduced the waiting time in addressing complaints, which was one of the concerns. AASA is hopeful officials in that agency will continue responding to the issues on the audit. It was noted that former AASA Deputy Director Leslie Shanlian, recently took a position with this agency.

Ms. Slocum stated she is in conversations to establish a veteran's ombudsman, and to expand her office's official oversight of V.A. facilities.

Commissioner Irby stated the V.A. facility in Marquette doesn't have these problems.

The Commission took a break at 10:00 AM, and resumed business at 10:10 AM.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Scott Wamsley, Technical Assistance, Support and Compliance (TASC) Division Director, provided handouts and explained AASA's interstate funding formula, how it allocates funds to the state's planning and service areas. He stated AASA is in the final year of a four-year phase-in of changes in allocations, based on national Community Survey population data.

Commissioner Ilardo asked if Mr. Wamsley could run the numbers with the three year ACS to see what kind of movement there's been, so if there are trends, they can be addressed more quickly.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Request for Approval of the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program State Health Insurance Program (MMAP/SHIP)**

Tari Muniz, AASA staff, requested approval of the MMAP/SHIP funding, an annual grant that will be awarded to MMAP who will provide counseling for Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries to understand the benefits. The funding program is from April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mast to approve the MIPPA-SHIP and MIPPA-MMAP, and allow the director the ability to adjust the grant amount by five percent, based on the final funding amount, as presented. Commissioner Irby seconded the motion.

This motion was approved with a 10-0-0 vote.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Director Sederburg announced she is resigning as the AASA Director. She has accepted a position with the Michigan Health Endowment Fund where she will assist with a Healthy Aging initiative. She will work with AASA on a transition plan, and may be on the selection committee for the new executive director. She will continue working with the Commission in her new role, and will be in contact to assist with the transition plan. Her last day is April 8, and she will attend the April Commission meeting.

Commissioner Wishart invited Director Sederburg to return when she receives more information to provide an update on her new role.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Commission on Services to the Aging meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2016, at 9:00 A.M. at the Ramada Inn at 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in Lansing. This will be a joint meeting with the State Advisory Council on Aging and a public hearing will follow that meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Wishart adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.